

Find Salvation in Christ

Devotional Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10 **Background Scripture:** Romans 10:5-21
Lesson Text: Romans 10:5-17

Time: A.D. 56 **Place:** from Corinth

Romans 10:5-17

⁵ Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶ But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Introduction

Salvation in Christ is the greatest message that has ever been proclaimed by human lips. Christ's final words to His disciples were a call to evangelize humanity (Mark 16:15).

While all believers have a role to play in sharing the Christian message, some have been called in a special way to “preach the word” (2 Tim. 4:2). Yet, because of a few religious charlatans, the public has a lower estimation of both ministries and missionaries today. Even so, faithful servants of Christ should be supported and encouraged in their efforts to proclaim the message of redemption (1 Tim. 5:17-18). While many technological advances have opened new doors of opportunity to share the gospel today, there is no substitute for one person telling another about Christ. While church leaders are often cited as being among those who have helped lost people find the Lord, many so-called ordinary Christians are frequently mentioned too. What are *we* doing to bring people to Jesus Christ?

Lesson Aims

After this lesson a student should be able to:

- Tell what Paul means when he concludes, “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
- Explain the importance of confession faith as it relates to one's own salvation and to the salvation of others.
- Prepare a personal testimony about what it means to be saved.

Confess Christ-Romans 10:5-11

Even though the Old Testament stressed obedience to God's law, no one was ever able to perfectly obey it. If one were to attain righteousness by the law, it would be the result of perfect obedience. Salvation would then be something one achieved rather than received. Of course, Jesus Christ alone perfectly obeyed the law of God, thus qualifying Himself as a sinless sacrifice; hence, *"Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believes"* (Rom. 10:4).

1-What did the Mosaic law emphasize? How did the law pave the way for the gospel?

As emphasized throughout Romans, salvation is by faith, not works. No special revelation from God is necessary. God's way of salvation is not difficult or complicated. We do not have to go to heaven to find Christ, or into the world of the dead. He is near to us. In other words, the Gospel of Christ-the Word of faith-is available and accessible to all. The sinner need not perform difficult works in order to be saved. All he or she has to do is trust Christ as Lord and Savior.

2-Why do we not need a special revelation from God to save us?

This was referred to in Question 2, but to elaborate, what Paul preached-*"the word of faith"*-was the simple gospel message, which declares that those who come to Christ through faith will receive *"eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Rom. 6:23). No wonder this message is called "gospel," that is, good news!

3-What was the "word of faith" that Paul spoke of? (Rom. 10:8)

To confess with the lips that Jesus is the Christ is sometimes called the "good confession" (1 Tim. 6:12-13). Unlike other confessions that may admit wrongdoing, this confession is good, for in this confession we publicly profess our faith in Christ. This is important and necessary because Jesus Himself said, *"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven"* (Matt. 10:32-33).

4-Why is it important to confess our faith in Christ?

Simply stating that we believe in Christ is insufficient unless we truly believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead. Belief in the resurrection of Christ is not optional; it is an essential doctrine of the faith. *"And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins"* (1 Corinthians 15:17).

5-What important Christian doctrine must be believed in the heart?

Yes, it is possible to have a certain level of belief about Christ that does not lead to salvation. There are many who believe in Jesus and accept the fact that such a man lived on earth and did some amazing things. However, they have not received Him as their personal Savior and committed their lives to Him. They are very much like the chief rulers John described, who believed in Jesus but did not confess Him for fear of being put out of the synagogue: *"They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God"* (John 12:43).

Quoting from Isaiah 28:16, Paul reminded his readers that those who trust in the Lord will not be ashamed, or disappointed (Rom. 10:11). Since God always keeps His promises to His people, we can be confident that the promise of salvation is secure for those who come to Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior (see Rom. 8:29-39).

6-Can a person believe in Christ but not confess Him?

Call on Christ-Romans 10:12-13

Even though the Jews enjoyed a privileged position in God's plan of redemption, the coming of Christ opened the way for all people to be saved.

When Paul says there is "no difference" between Jew and Greek, he could not have meant no difference in respect; for in choosing the Jews to be his peculiar people, God had certainly created great religious and political differences between them and other nations. He must have meant no difference now under Christ.

Since we are all sinners (Rom. 3:22-23), we all have a common need for deliverance from sin. From the standpoint of heritage and history, the Jew might have an advantage over the Greek. From the vantage point of need, however, we are all equal. There is not one God for Jews and another God for Gentiles, *"for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him"* (Rom. 10:12). Believing the gospel converts both Jew and Gentile.

7-What did Paul mean when he said there was "no difference" (vs. 12) between Jew and Greek?

Communicate Christ-Romans 10:14-17

Since only those who call on the Lord can be saved, Paul logically asked, *"How then shall they call on him in who they have not believed?"* People cannot call on a God they have not believed in, nor can they believe in Him if they have never heard about Him. Someone must communicate the gospel to them. Paul thus made it clear that human beings are necessary instruments in God's evangelical program. Those who preach are Christ's spokesmen and spokeswomen and only the persons upon whom God has laid His hand upon may act in this capacity.

8-Why is it necessary for the church to send out preachers?

Quoting from Isaiah 52:7, Paul reminded his readers that the "feet of them that preach the gospel" are "beautiful." This is so because they bring a message of peace. Through Christ we can be at peace with God and with one another (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:14). What the world needs is not more high-level peace negotiators, but more preachers of the gospel of peace!

9-Why do those who preach the gospel have "beautiful feet" (Rom. 10:15)

If people are to come to faith in Christ, they have to hear the message that produces saving faith. This message is contained in the gospel, described in today's lesson as the spoken "word of God" (Rom. 10:17; see also 1 Thess. 2:13; and 2 Thess. 2:13-14).

The Bible is the written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and profitable for spiritual growth (2 Tim. 3:16). If we want a stronger, deeper faith, it will come only as we hear, read, and study God's Word frequently.

10-Where does faith come from? How can faith be increased?

Conclusion

Religion is not a bad word. James speaks of "pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father" (James 1:27). But when the issue is how to be right with God, the word "religion" may communicate the wrong message-a message that our works can somehow save us. It is not through our efforts that we are saved. You may know someone who is waiting until he or she is living a "better life" before accepting Christ. That may seem like a noble desire, but, we do not need to be "better" to be right with God; we

need a Savior now! To wait until we are more "presentable" to God misses the point of the gospel. God wants us as we are.

The saving message of the gospel is available to those lost in the world today. Those who have accepted Christ and experienced His salvation need to be faithful in proclaiming the message of the Christ who died for us and rose again.

Practical Points

1. Christ is the only one who could not only fulfill the law, but also keep it (Rom. 10:5-8).
2. We who believe in Christ should find it natural to speak of Him as Lord and Saviour (vss. 9-10).
3. Believing in Christ will never bring disappointment (vs. 11).
4. God accepts all people who come to Him in faith, no matter who they are (vss. 12-13).
5. We have been appointed by God to carry the message of the gospel to the world (vss. 14-15).
6. We cannot expect to see people come to genuine faith in Christ unless the message we proclaim is centered on Christ and based in God's Word (vss. 16-17).

Prayer

Father, use our feet to carry the gospel around the corner or around the world-whenever You would have us go. Use our hands to enable other feet to go. Use our tongues to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Help us to speak and live in His name. We pray in His name. Amen.

Thought to Remember

"And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" (Romans 10:15)

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Make careful note of the marks of a true Christian as you study Romans 12:1-2, 9-21. Ask the Lord to help you objectively evaluate your growth in the areas the text has specified.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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